

## V. Reuther Links CIA, AFL-CIO

By Harry Bernstein  
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LONG BEACH, Calif., May

22—There is evidence that the AFL-CIO international affairs department is "involved" with the Central Intelligence Agency in foreign affairs, according to a United Auto Workers Union official.

Victor Reuther, head of the UAW's international affairs department and assistant to his brother, UAW President Walter Reuther, said in a far-ranging interview:

"The tragedy of the AFL-CIO activities in the field of foreign affairs is that they are a vest-pocket operation run by Jay Lovestone."

Lovestone is director of the AFL-CIO's international affairs department. The UAW, a member of the AFL-CIO, ended its annual convention here Saturday.

The extent of the AFL-CIO involvement in the internal affairs of unions of other countries or in the political affairs of those countries is either unknown or, at best, only partially reported, Reuther said.

He said a substantial part of AFL-CIO international affairs department activities are carried on in the name of the AFL-CIO but are not reported to the union's executive council.

Reuther said most of the activities, of course, are not known, but "what seems to be one most recent example of CIA activities took place about two months ago in the International Food and Drink Workers Federation, headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and supported by the AFL-CIO."

Some eight individuals in Panama alone were posing as official representatives of the federation, he said, without the knowledge of the federation's General Secretary A. Paulson.

These eight people had the credentials of a legitimate worker organization, enabling them to function as they saw fit, he said. The only way Paulson was able to correct the situation was by sending a letter to all affiliates announcing he had to abolish the Panama office because of this situation, Reuther said.

Al Zack, spokesman for the AFL-CIO, denied that the American Institute for Free

Labor Development has any connection with CIA or that Lovestone had anything to do with setting up the organization.

Zack said the AIFLD "school" is about to graduate its 13th class of Latin American labor leaders and its purpose is to build a strong Democratic labor movement in Latin America.

Reuther said that as long as "President George Meany has such personal confidence in Lovestone, I see no changes in the federation's foreign policies."

In one of the sharpest criticisms yet made of Lovestone by a top union leader, Reuther said:

"Mr. Lovestone seems to have brought into the labor movement the working habits and undercover techniques which he learned when he was in the highest echelons of the Communist Party. I guess it's awfully hard to break those habits."

Lovestone was a onetime member of the party, but broke with it to become one of the nation's most dedicated anti-Communists.

The sharp differences over foreign policy, and over the basic concept of the role organized labor should play in international affairs, have not resulted in a break between men like Meany and Reuther.

The Meany-Lovestone attitude includes opposition to East-West trade, opposition to cultural exchanges with the Soviet bloc nations, opposition to admission of Communist China to the United Nations or to U.S. recognition of Red China.

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